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a general verdict for one or the other party. In most jurisdictions special verdicts are governed by statute, but the Code of Virginia is silent on the subject. Mr. Minor in his last edition of Vol. 4 of his Institutes, p. 923, gives some attention to the subject, and the Virginia cases relating thereto may be found collected in the note on Verdicts in Va. Rep. Anno., 4 Rand. 143. Virginia practitioners, especially when representing defendants, will often find themselves equipped with a powerful weapon if they will thoroughly study the nature and effect of special verdicts and the circumstances under which it is desirable to obtain them. To this end the bar may use to great advantage Mr. Clementson's book.

CYCLOPEDIA OF LAW AND PROCEDURE. William Mack, Editor-in-Chief. Volume XVIII. The American Law Book Company, New York: 1905.

We are glad to welcome to our shelves another volume of this most excellent series. It is taken up largely with a discussion of the subject of Executors and Administrators, 1366 pages being devoted to that subject alone. The matter published under this one head would make if printed in ordinary text-book style some two or three volumes. About 130 pages are devoted to the subject of Exemptions, and the remaining portion of the book treats of minor subjects. This volume brings us down to the word *Explosion*. The 2d Edition of the American and English Encyclopedia of Law reached the same subject within eleven volumes, but, of course, it must be borne in mind that in "Cyc" not only are questions of substantive law discussed, but matters of pleading and practice. So that it covers the same subjects not only in the Encyclopedia of Law but also in the Encyclopedia of Pleading and Practice. We calculate that, at the present rate, it will take fifty-four volumes to complete this most useful enterprise of the American Law Book Company. While we regret that it seems that so many volumes are necessary, the bar demands and will have nothing less than a thorough and free discussion of every subject treated. The publishers have placed the profession under great obligation to them by bringing together under one head all matters of law and procedure relative to a given subject.

THE TRUE ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by William Elery Curtis, author of "The True Thomas Jefferson," "The Turk and his Lost Provinces," "The United States and Foreign Powers," etc. With Twenty-four Illustrations. J. B. Lippincott & Company, Philadelphia: 1904. 409 pp. Price, \$2.00, net.

We suppose it would be disclosing no secret to say that review editors rarely ever read a book carefully, but we found "The True Abraham Lincoln" so interesting that we read it from cover to cover. There is, of course, much in the book not in accord with Southern sentiments and opinions; yet the book is comparatively free from that extravagant praise which Lincoln's hysterical admirers have been wont to bestow upon him. Lincoln was undoubtedly a great man, but the bullet of John Wilkes Booth added greatly to the esteem in which he is held.

The author says that Lincoln never hesitated to use patronage of the government for political purpose, and that he would have rejected with scorn the demands of civil service reformers of today.

Mr. Curtis relates a very interesting incident illustrative of the big-heartedness of Lincoln. He says that a short time before the surrender of Lee, Grant asked the President if he should capture Jefferson Davis or let him escape from the country. Mr Lincoln said, "About that I am reminded of the story of the Irishman who had taken the pledge of Father Matthew. He became terribly thirsty, applied to a bartender for a lemonade, and while it was being prepared whispered to him, 'And couldn't ye put a little brandy into it all unbeknown to meself?' I told Grant that if he could let Jeff Davis escape all unbeknown to himself let him do it. I didn't want him."

Mr. Lincoln had a different idea from ours on the subject of miscegenation. In one of his speeches he said, "I shall never marry a negress, but I have no objection to anyone else doing so."

In 1862 in a message to Congress he recommended the passage of a constitutional amendment authorizing Congress to provide for the colonization of the negroes. His idea was to send them either to Africa, to the West Indies, or to Central America.

In explanation of some of the radical changes of opinion which characterized his career, he said: "I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall try to adopt new views as fast as they appear to be the true views."

Lincoln did not believe in universal negro suffrage. His writings show that he wanted the ballot bestowed only on the very intelligent and those who fought in the Union ranks.

The following reprimand delivered by President Lincoln to a soldier who was court-martialed for quarreling is full of wisdom: "The advice of a father to his son, 'Beware of entrance to a quarrel, but, being in, bear it that the opposed may beware of thee,' is good, but not the best. Quarrel not at all. No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take all the consequences,— the vitiation of his temper and the loss of self control. Yield larger things to which you can show no more than an equal right, and yield lesser ones, though clearly your own. Better give your path to a dog than be bitten by him in contesting for the right. Even killing the dog would not cure the bite."